

# PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

**Correspondence Received** 

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS HOLLY J. MITCHELL LINDSEY P. HORVATH JANICE HAHN KATHRYN BARGER

			The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:	
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
87-A.		Favor	Bruce L Silverstein	PLEASE SEE ATTACHED LETTER
			Cecilia V Estolano	My name is Cecilia Estolano and I was displaced from my home on Calaveras Street in Altadena by the Eaton Canyon Fire. I am also a member of the Blue Ribbon Commission for a Climate Resilient and Fire Safe Recovery. I Co-chaired the Land Use Working Group and was a member of the Governance and Finance Working Groups. I strongly support the Motion as an important step in creating a Rebuilding Authority with the extraordinary powers necessary to accelerate and direct an efficient, equitable, and coordinated recovery. Without such an Authority Altadena will continue to see unimpeded land speculation, and the rebuilding of homes, apartments and businesses will be uncoordinated, uneven and delayed. We need an Authority to ensure that Altadenans and Palisadeans who were displaced are able to return to their beloved communities expeditiously.
			Edward Cannan	I am a 25-year Altadena homeowner/resident, whose home was destroyed by the Eaton Fire. While there may be some unintended consequences arising from the adoption of Agenda 87-A., I am in favor of it based on what I know at this time. Although the County's Altadena recovery efforts are not perfect, I am grateful for having benefitted from some of the actions implemented by the County to help Altadena, including the so-called free debris removal program. Now that my lot is cleared, it is time to start the long, costly process to build my new, like-for-like home. However, my insurance claim proceeds are expected to be barely sufficient, so I will need every penny to see the construction through to completion. Therefore, I request that the County BOS immediately approve a temporary, limited plan to waive all Altadena residential building fees for permitting, planning, and other related actions. For instance, the fee-waiver period may run for three years beginning 1/7/2025 and the waiver could be limited to homeowners like me who will build on their existing residential lots. Further, the County could offset the lost fee revenue by charging higher building fees to individual buyers, corporations, and LLCs from outside Altadena who have purchased lots from previous Altadena homeowners.



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			The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:	
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87-A.		Favor	Jonathan J Parfrey	My name is Jonathan Parfrey. I am CEO of Climate Resolve. I am privileged to serve as a member of LA County's Blue Ribbon Commission on wildfire recovery. I write in support of the motion. In fact, key concepts underlying the motion were suggested by the Commission. The unprecedented urban conflagration that afflicted our County in January, demands a strong response by the County. There are many property-owners in unincorporated LA County whose lots were uninsured or under-insured. Unfortunately, these people may choose to not rebuild. They may abandon a home held by their family for multiple generations. In order to maintain the continuity and spirit of the neighborhood, sometime must be done. The resolution asks County Counsel to investigate how to best establish an authority that could help LA County residents in their recovery. The authority must be able to develop community-level resiliency measures, especially with an eye on making communities insurable. The authority should further be able to issue bonds, develop public/private partnerships — and directly oversee the buying and selling of property and managing construction projects. There is precedence of constituting authorities to coordinate large scale disaster recovery in previous crises, such as following the Northridge earthquake of 1994. We are in such a crisis today — I implore you to please support the motion to help jumpstart the recovery.
			Michael Rochmes	
			Russell Goldsmith	The extraordinary challenges and opportunities created by the unprecedented and tragic devastation of the Palisades and Eaton fires require an extraordinary response by the County, the state and the cities involved to create a single authority (or two) that are empowered with significant powers, funding and skills, including public and private sector experts and a highly qualified CEO plus a small staff fully focused just on these issues to act wisely and quickly to effectively re-build these communities quickly, cost effectively, fairly and in a more resilient and creative manner than having to work through all of the complexities and costs and time that uncoordinated efforts working through normal bureaucratic procedures would achieve. Please see the detailed discussion from the County's Blue Ribbon Commission.

			The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:	
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
87-A.		Favor	Sarah Wolf	I lost my home in the Eaton Fire. As an Altadena resident in unincorporated LA County, there is no other organization other than LA County that could step in as the Palisades and Eaton Fire Rebuilding Authority. Streamlining rebuilding will be crucial for community recovery. I'm especially in favor of the County stepping in to buy lots for land banking and coordinating building standards, setbacks, and community scale fire hardening for insurability.
		Item Total	7	
Grand Total			7	

# Honorable Supervisors,

My name is Bruce Silverstein. I am the Mayor *Pro Tem* of the City of Malibu, but I am writing in my personal capacity to support Supervisor Horvath's motion to study the feasibility of Los Angeles County (the "County") serving as a Rebuilding Authority across all jurisdictions impacted by the January 2025 wildfires and any legal authorities that would require state authorizing legislation. Moreover, for the reasons explained below, I respectfully request that the study include the feasibility of including the Franklin Fire, the Broad Fire, and any other wildfire that has occurred and/or may occur hereafter in the County.

Within days following the initial containment of the January 2025 wildfires, I wrote to Supervisor Horvath, Mayor Bass, and L.A. City Councilmember Park, advocating that the County, the City of Los Angeles, and the City of Malibu all work together in a coordinated manner to deal with the aftermath of the wildfires. Although Supervisor Horvath promptly expressed her agreement with my proposal, I heard nothing from the City of Los Angeles. Thereafter, I witnessed the City of Los Angeles take center stage in the state and national spotlight, appear to receive disproportionate financial and other support, and essentially complete with other areas impacted by the January 2025 wildfires rather than work cooperatively with those areas. Inasmuch as only a fraction of the January 2025 wildfires occurred within the City of Los Angeles, and the entirety of the wildfires occurred within the County, it is fitting that the County assume a central role in the relief, recovery and rebuilding effort in order to ensure coordination and avoid competition for resources among the multiple impacted areas. As the largest and most senior government agency among the multiple agencies involved, the County also is best suited to oversee that effort.

As noted above, I also respectfully submit that the County's coordinated effort ought to include the Franklin Fire and other wildfires that have and/or will impact areas of the County. Inclusion of the Franklin Fire is particularly appropriate, because the Franklin Fire occurred just a month prior to the January 2025 wildfires, and the burn scar from the Franklin Fire ended up halting the northwestern progress of the Palisades Fire, which had been projected to burn all the way up the coast to Ventura County and possibly as far as Point Mugu based on modeling performed by fire officials that failed to account for the burn scar. In a very real sense, the residents of Malibu who lost their homes in the Franklin Fire did so in the service of saving hundreds of other homes that would have burned in the January

2025 wildfires if the Franklin Fire had not occurred. Yet, the Franklin Fire has been excluded from federal and state assistance for reasons that have not been adequately explained - especially by the Governor's Office, which has been conspicuously absent from the Franklin Fire recovery effort, and also seemingly less focused on the significant losses in the City of Malibu than the losses in other areas impacted by the January 2025 wildfires.

In connection with all of the foregoing, I note that Supervisor Horvath has worked tirelessly since her election to represent the interests of her constituents, which include the residents of the City of Malibu. In the past, the City of Malibu and its residents have been overlooked by some of their representatives, whose jurisdiction encompass a large area of which the City of Malibu is but a relatively small portion. Unlike those prior representatives, Supervisor Horvath has consistently considered the interests of the City of Malibu and its residents, along with the interests of the other municipalities within the Third District – which also includes the City of Los Angeles. The Supervisor's motion to study the feasibility of the County serving as a Rebuilding Authority across all jurisdictions impacted by the January 2025 wildfires is but one example of her genuine and even-handed concern and consideration for all of her constituents without regard to their political pull.

Lastly, although I present this public comment in my personal capacity, and not as the Mayor *Pro Tem* of the City of Malibu, I know that many of my constituents support and welcome Supervisor Horvath's motion, and I am confident that the full City Council would support the Supervisor's motion if the item were formally presented for a vote at a City Council meeting. I also am confident that the City of Malibu will welcome the opportunity to participate in any centralized relief, recovery and rebuilding effort that may be organized by the County.

Stay Safe & Stay Well, Bruce L. Silverstein



525 S. Hewitt St. Los Angeles, CA 90013 (213) 689-9707 usgbc-ca.org

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### **EXECUTIVE STAFF**

Ben Stapleton, Executive Director

## Jun 2, 2025

To: County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors

# RE: Item 87-A, Legal Pathways to Los Angeles County Serving as the Palisades and Eaton Fire Rebuilding Authority - SUPPORT

Dear Board Members,

On behalf of the US Green Building Council - California, I am writing to express support for Item 87-A, Legal Pathways to Los Angeles County Serving as the Palisades and Eaton Fire Rebuilding Authority. Establishing the County as Rebuilding Authority will support a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable recovery in these communities.

USGBC California's deep bench of members are sustainability and green building professionals with a strong commitment to addressing climate change and other local, state, and international environmental issues. Our members are designers, engineers, public agency and utility staff, consultants, product manufacturers, and service providers. Our goals include advancing impactful solutions to address our urgent environmental and social challenges.

Establishing a Resilient Rebuilding Authority is one of the most urgent recommendations identified by the <u>Blue Ribbon Commission for Climate Action</u> <u>and Fire-Safe Recovery</u> established by Supervisor Horvath because a community-wide approach is needed to limit displacement, address labor shortages, and achieve resilience measures that will protect the communities in the future and enhance insurability.

A Rebuilding Authority can help reduce the costs and delays of rebuilding for individual residents and businesses by coordinating design and construction. More broadly, it can improve resilience and insurability for the entire community by enabling acquisition of properties that could be used for community mitigation measures and implementing recommendations on maximizing structural spacing. By delivering as many rental and owned options as existed prior to the fires and providing returning residents with first look options, the Rebuilding Authority can reduce displacement.

The Rebuilding Authority should also be able to administer and/or issue bonds and other financial instruments, control costs through bulk purchasing and coordinating logistics and work with utilities to strengthen key infrastructure systems.

Having a Rebuilding Authority that covers all areas affected by the January 2025 fires can prevent exacerbating inequality between communities and streamline the process.



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### **EXECUTIVE STAFF**

Ben Stapleton, Executive Director

## We urge you to support this Motion. Thank you for your consideration.

## Sincerely,

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Ben Stapleton, Executive Director

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